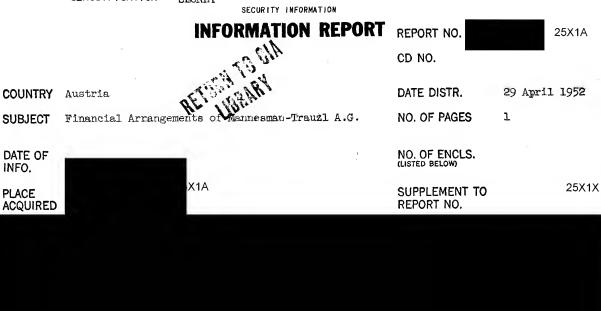
FORM NO. 51-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET



The USTA-controlled Mannesman-Trauzl A.G., Vienna, which produces machines and oil-drilling equipment, has been instructed by the Soviet authorities to clear future sales to Czechoslovakia through the Soviet Military Bank in Vienna. Heretofore, such sales had been transacted through the regular Austro-Czech clearing. In the future, the Soviet Military Bank will handle the necessary currency conversion arrangements and will negotiate with the Austrian National Bank for letters of credit in hard currencles.

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Comment: Mannesman-Trauzl A.G. has sizeable contracts with the Czech state trusts Investa and Kovo.

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